

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claim 10 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend the following claims:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Previously Presented) The MRI magnetic field generator according to Claim 12, further including a non-magnetic support member with high electrical resistance secured to on the side second proximate to the yoke for supporting said main component.
3. (Previously Presented) The MRI magnetic field generator according to Claim 2, wherein said non-magnetic support member comprises a resin, bakelite, FRP, or another such non-metal.
4. (Previously Presented) The MRI magnetic field generator according to Claim 12, further comprising magnetic annular support member divided into a plurality of sections in the circumferential direction secured to a peripheral portion of the main component.
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled))
8. (Previously Presented) The MRI magnetic field generator according to Claim 12, wherein said magnetic annular protrusion comprises laminated silicon steel sheets.
9. (Previously Presented) The MRI magnetic field generator according to Claim 8, wherein said main component and magnetic annular protrusion comprises silicon steel sheets laminated in the direction facing the pole pieces.
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Currently Amended) An MRI magnetic field generator comprising:  
a yoke;  
a pair of pole pieces disposed facing each other so as to form an air gap

therebetween; and

a pair of permanent magnets supported by the yoke, said permanent magnets for generating a magnetic field in the air gap, each permanent magnet having opposite ends, one end of each permanent magnet disposed facing the air gap and being directly attached to the pole piece, and the opposite end facing the yoke;

the pole pieces being formed of a main component including a plurality of laminated blocks, each comprising a plurality of laminated silicon steel sheets, wherein the laminated blocks of the silicon steel sheets are laminated in a direction facing the pole pieces, and a magnetic annular protrusion disposed on a side of the main component facing the air gap; wherein the magnetic annular protrusion has a side with a surface area  $S_a$  facing the main component and has a surface area  $S_b$  facing the magnetic annular protrusion and wherein the ratio of  $S_b/S_a$  is at least 80% or higher.